

RECOGNIZING FRANKIE BRETHERICK
HONORING AMERICA'S
FIRST FLY GIRLS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) were the first women in American history to fly military aircraft. Between the years 1942–1944, women were recruited to fly non-combat missions, so that every male pilot could be deployed in combat. These women piloted every kind of military aircraft and logged 60 million miles flying missions across the United States. They were never awarded full military status and were not eligible for officer status. It was not till 1977 that the WASP pilots were granted veterans' status. Of the 1,102 WASP pilots, just under 300 are living today. One of these living legends resides in the Third Congressional District, Frankie Bretherick. I'd like to thank her personally for her service to this great nation for being a pioneer of flight.

Frankie Lovvorn was born September 19, 1914, in Cranfills Gap, Bosque County, Texas. Her parents were Francis Marion Lovvorn and Primrose Smith. She graduated from high school in Meridian, Bosque County, Texas. She graduated from Providence Hospital Nursing School in Waco, Texas, in 1937. She worked for five years at various veteran's hospitals in Texas and Louisiana. She began flying lessons at an airport south of Dallas, Texas.

By the time she applied and was accepted into the WASP program, Class of 44W–6, she had acquired a commercial pilot's license and had logged over 200 hours of flying time. While stationed in Greenville, Mississippi at Greenville Army Air Base until deactivated on December 20, 1944, she flew BT–13s and UC–78s and slow-timed repaired aircraft.

After deactivation, Frankie was asked to join the Army Nurse Corps in May 1945. She was sent to Mitchell Field, New York where she worked at a hospital for three weeks. She was then sent to Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas to attend the School of Aviation Medicine where she received training to become an air evacuation nurse. After World War II, she went to business school and attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She also worked part-time as a nurse while in school.

Frankie met Joseph Harry Bretherick while both were stationed in Greenville, Mississippi. They married in 1949 and lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for 19 years. Frankie continued working as a part-time nurse after their marriage.

They moved to Sarasota, Florida in 1968. After moving to Sarasota, Florida, Frankie became involved with the Sarasota Garden Club. She also acquired her Real Estate license. Frankie's husband, Joe, died in 1999. About three years ago Frankie moved to Plano, Collin County, Texas, to be close to family.

Through their actions, Women Air Force Service Pilots were a catalyst for revolutionary reform in the integration of women pilots into the U.S. Armed Services. Just as the Navajo Code Talkers served with distinction and were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, it is

also appropriate for Congress to recognize and honor the service of the WASP with the Congressional Gold Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award that the U.S. Congress can award to a civilian. Finally, these women will receive that long-overdue recognition now that the House and the Senate have passed the bill granting these women.

This Congressional Gold Medal honors mothers, grandmothers, teachers, office workers, nurses, business women, photographers, dancers, one was even a nun. But before that, they were pilots for the US Army Air Corps during World War II. Finally, this Congress has recognized their sacrifice and considers them all heroes because these trailblazers and true patriots served our country without question and with no expectations of recognition or praise. That is what being a true hero is all about! The Congressional Gold Medals will be awarded to all 1,102 pilots and/or their surviving family members.

To the brave and selfless women like Frankie, our nation owes them a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice. I am so very proud of them. God bless them and God bless America! I salute them one and all.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2892, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2010.

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill makes fundamental investments that are vital to our nation's security. It tightens our nation's borders, allows for installation of the latest explosive detection systems at airports nationwide, protects our ports and critical infrastructure, and provides grants to meet the needs of our first responders. It also increases funding for the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which is very important to my home city of New York, by almost \$50 million, matching the President's request, for a total allocation of \$887 million.

In the months following the September 11th attacks, I spearheaded the creation of the High Threat Urban Area Account Program, which later became the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). I undertook this effort because, at the time, there were no Federal domestic security grant programs that provided funding solely on the basis of threat and risk. While I recognize that the threat of terror lingers everywhere, there are, unfortunately, several cities and areas that are more vulnerable to attack. New York, my home city, is one of them.

This is not a distinction we are proud of, but it is a reality we face. Al-Qaeda has already attacked my city twice. And, for me, it became

all the more personal when my cousin, a New York City fireman, died during the September 11, 2001 attacks trying to help people out of Tower 2 at the World Trade Center.

What happened on September 11th can never happen again, and that is what the UASI program is about. The grants go to cities and states under the greatest threat of attack. In New York City, the grants have been used to train and better equip first responders, and provide them with better communication systems to assure preparedness, in addition to improved monitoring of critical infrastructure.

Late last month, four men were arrested in a plot to bomb two Bronx synagogues. According to authorities, they had planted bombs in cars outside the two synagogues, and were planning to shoot down military planes at an Air National Guard base in upstate New York. New York's Office of Homeland Security later provided Urban Area Security Initiative Non-profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) funds in order to resolve the vulnerabilities of the synagogues. Additionally, it was Federal homeland security dollars that assisted the New York Police Department in their excellent investigative work to stop this act of terror before it occurred.

Madam Speaker, the threat of terrorism remains very real, making it essential for cities that face the greatest risk to have the tools and resources necessary to stop attacks before they occur. Cities, like New York, remain a major target for terrorists, and programs like UASI help us fight terrorism and ensures that our first responders have the equipment they need to protect the American people.

I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina, Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, for his leadership, hard work, and dedication to the urban area initiative and I urge adoption of the bill.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE LOTHSPICH FAMILY

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the military service of the Lothspeich family of North Dakota. North Dakota has a proud military tradition and has sent many of its sons and daughters into the service of their country. Amongst this proud history and tradition the Lothspeich family is unique. Edward and Rose Lothspeich were the parents of nine boys and one girl. From this family all nine of the Lothspeich brothers have bravely answered the call of a grateful nation when it was sorely needed.

These brave men served across several critical periods in our nation's history. Eugene, Harold and Edward served at the height of World War II. Donald, Gerald, Lyle, Marlin served during the Korean War and the beginning of the Cold War. Franklin and Leon served in Germany during a period in which the Soviet Union was increasing the isolation of East Germany.

Next week as we gather to celebrate the birth of our nation, the City of Park River, North Dakota will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. As a part of that celebration, Park

River will honor those brothers who are still with us, Edward, Lyle, and Marlin, and those who are not Eugene, Harold, Edward, Donald, Gerald, Franklin and Leon.

The United States is what it is today because of the sacrifices of families like the Lothspeich's who gave so selflessly and served so bravely. These brothers helped win World War II and kept watch during the cold-est nights of the Cold War.

The sacrifices of the Lothspeich brothers are worthy of our highest respect and I can think of no greater duty of a member of Congress than to honor our nation's heroes. I stand today to honor their service as the city of Park River will next week.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD F. MELL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Richard F. Mell. Alderman Mell, who is celebrating his 35th year of service, is a vital part of the Chicago community.

Born in Muskegon, Michigan, Dick Mell began his career in public service shortly after moving to Chicago, starting as a precinct captain with the 33rd Ward Regular Democratic Organization and working closely with a variety of neighborhood organizations. Knowing he could do more to help the community by taking on a larger role, in 1975, he ran to be Alderman of the 33rd Ward and won. A year later, he became the Ward Committeeman and took his seat on the Democratic Central Committee of Cook County, representing his community on Chicago's Northwest side.

Alderman Mell has continued to take on important and influential roles throughout his successful career. He held the office of Vice Mayor of the City of Chicago for eight years and currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics. He is also a member of the Committees on Budget and Governmental Operations, Finance, Health, Housing & Land Acquisition, Human Relations, and Traffic Control and Safety.

As Alderman, Mr. Mell has always put his community first, remaining accessible to his constituents with an open door policy and frequent attendance at community meetings. He celebrates his multi-ethnic, multi-racial community and understands that diversity stimulates growth in all of its residents. He consistently strives to protect his entire community and has helped make possible social programs to assist the less fortunate.

Alderman Mell's list of accomplishments is longer than this statement will allow and includes setting new ethic codes for elected officials, fighting absentee slum landlords in housing courts, initiating an Adjacent Neighborhood Program that rids the city of vacant lots, and fighting to decrease graffiti in the city by banning spray paint and passing an ordinance that allows judges to sentence graffiti vandals to community service work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alderman Richard Mell and his extraordinary career, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to the City of Chicago and its citizens. His commitment to public service stands as an example to us all.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2010.

This legislation provides a 17% increase over FY09 levels for critical programs that protect our public health and environment.

Among other provisions, the legislation provides \$605 million for the Superfund program which will assist sites across the country clean up hazardous substances, including potentially the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site.

It also provides \$3.3 million to help EPA monitor air toxics outside schools, which I hope will ultimately include schools in our district in East Houston, as well as \$5 million to fund four new centers of excellence to study toxin and chemical impacts on children.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to highlight two important projects I requested funding for in this bill, but did not receive funding.

The first is the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center to continue air quality public health research on air toxics in urban areas as directed by the U.S. Congress. The Center is a 501(c)(3) institution authorized by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Americans want to know whether they are at risk from pollutants in the air that they breathe. People who live near sources of air toxics such as major roadways, industrial facilities, or small businesses, are often especially concerned about their risk.

The purpose of air quality regulation and research is to protect public health. High quality air toxics research is the only way to assess peoples' risks and give policymakers the tools they need to protect public health. The Center develops and manages air toxics research with a focus on understanding the air toxics that people are exposed to in their daily activities, and how those compounds may impact their health.

The Houston Exposure to Air Toxics Study (HEATS) is an on-going project designed to study the relationship between personal exposures—the air people breathe as they go about their daily activities—and fixed site monitored concentrations of air toxics by measuring personal, residential indoor, and outdoor concentrations.

HEATS studies residents who live in the 29th district of Texas, in close proximity to an industrial neighborhood near the Houston Ship Channel and a comparison group with similar demographics in Aldine. Because it has been conducted according to rigorous statistical principles, study results will be applicable to the study participants, their neighborhoods,

and other, similar neighborhoods in Houston and nationwide.

Federal support for this project is critical to ensure this research continues and I hope to work with the Chairman as this bill goes forward, and with EPA to get funding for this research in the budget as Congress intended when it created the Center.

We also sought funding for a six-year Capital Improvement Project that will rehabilitate and upgrade the City of Baytown, Texas's wastewater and water infrastructure to comply with federal and state regulations, maintain its condition and reliability and save costs. The City has implemented an asset management program to assess equipment condition, optimize work practices and ensure funding remains in place to sustain infrastructure improvements over time.

The funding we requested under the State and Tribal Assistance Grant would help rehabilitate portions of the Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant to include elevation of redesign of critical components to reduce the storm surge impacts suffered during Hurricane Ike. These include the influent lift station, blower building, administration/laboratory building, and grit removal process. The internal piping needs to be replaced to improve energy and operating efficiency, along with the chlorine contact basin and plant pumping/transfer systems. Installation of post-storm emergency power systems are also a part of this effort.

This is an important project to help Baytown recover from damage caused by Hurricane Ike and overall to upgrade their wastewater system, and I look forward to working the Chair as we move forward to find assistance for this project.

I do have some concerns, however, with provisions of the bill and report language.

The bill defers \$50 million in funding from the Ultra-Deepwater Research Fund that was a part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act of 2005. The ultra deepwater fund provides \$50 million annually for research for recovering oil and gas from ultra-deepwaters in the Gulf of Mexico.

It also includes report language urging EPA to "review the risks that hydraulic fracturing poses to drinking water using the best available science, as well as independent sources of information."

I understand the concerns and desire to adequately protect the environment when developing our domestic resources, but hydraulic fracturing is a well-tested technology that has been used to develop energy for over 60 years.

First used in 1947, hydraulic fracturing has become a standard practice for improving the process of natural energy extraction. The practice involves the pumping of fluid into wells at high pressure to create fractures in rock formations that allow for complete production of oil. Hydraulic fracturing is responsible for about 30 percent of our domestic recoverable oil and natural gas. About 90 percent of currently operating wells use this technology. Hydraulic fracturing, as used to produce natural gas from shale formations, has created new opportunities for clean energy and employment without causing environmental damage.

Recent studies on fracturing conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 found no confirmed evidence of contamination